

medical graduates, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 5, strike "June 1, 2013" and insert "March 6, 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5571 reauthorizes a critically important immigration program that helps medically underserved communities attract highly skilled physicians. This program expired on June 1 of this year. On May 21, the House passed this bill with a 5-year reauthorization.

As sent back from the Senate, the bill allows the program to expire again on March 6, 2009. While this unfortunate limitation will require Congress to revisit this issue promptly next year, the program is too important to let expire. The program helps States attract doctors who have received their medical training in the United States and who agree to work in medically underserved areas.

Its importance was demonstrated last year when a tornado utterly destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kansas. That town would not have had doctors without this program, and their presence helped tremendously in the town's ability to keep casualties to a minimum.

We need to keep this program going so that the States can attract medical talent and keep the doors open.

I commend Ranking Member Lamar Smith, as well as my colleague, Sheila Jackson-Lee, for their efforts to bring this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill extends a program that has successfully brought doctors to medically underserved areas in the U.S. The Conrad Program allows foreign doctors who have been here on exchange programs to stay at the conclusion of their residencies if they agree to practice medicine for at least 3 years in health professionals shortage areas.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

This bill extends a program that has successfully brought doctors to medically underserved areas in the U.S. The "Conrad" program allows foreign doctors who have been here on exchange programs to stay at the conclusion of their residencies if they agree to practice medicine for at least 3 years in health professional shortage areas.

In May the House passed legislation to extend the program for an additional 5 years. And Senator SPECTER introduced legislation in the Senate to also extend the program for 5 years. Our medically underserved communities deserve a long-term reauthorization of this program so that they can better plan for the future.

I support this bill today. However, it only reauthorizes the Conrad program for about 5 months. Why such a short reauthorization? Well, the reason is that the Democrats on the other side of the Capitol are holding the reauthorization of another vital immigration program hostage.

The E-Verify program provides tens of thousands of American employers who want to do the right thing with an effective way to ensure that they are hiring a legal workforce. The authorization for E-Verify expires in November, so the House passed a 5 year reauthorization by the overwhelming vote of 407 to 2.

Unfortunately, the Democrats in the Senate have refused to pass an extension of E-Verify for longer than 5 months. They refuse to pass a longer extension unless we accede to their demand to increase immigration to the U.S. by over 500,000 persons.

Such a demand goes against the clear preference of the American people who oppose an increase in immigration levels already at a record high. It goes against the interests of American workers in these unsettled economic times. And it goes against the interests of American employers, who want to count on E-Verify being available to them for the long term.

The House is right to reject the demand of the Senate Democrats. Unfortunately, since they will only extend E-Verify for 5 months, we will only get a five month extension of the Conrad program. Thus, we will need to address this issue again after the 111th Congress convenes next winter.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today, we are preventing a critically important immigration program from expiring.

No one disputes that there is a health care crisis in this country. With our population aging, there is no doubt that the demand for health care will only increase.

The problem is made worse by a shortage of medical professionals, including doctors, in many communities across America. H.R. 5571 will reauthorize a program—the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program—that has been successful at helping medically underserved communities attract highly skilled physicians.

The program allows States to recruit foreign doctors who have received their medical training in the United States, so long as those doctors work in medically underserved areas.

This program is critically important to underserved communities across this country, but it unfortunately expired on June 1, 2008. The House passed the bill on May 21, but the Senate did not act until just yesterday, when it extended the program through March 6, 2009.

Although I would have strongly preferred to reauthorize this program for 5 years, as the bill I introduced stated, this program is too important to let expire as we continue to negotiate the length of time this program should be extended. We must pass this bill today so that we may have the additional time we need to further reauthorize the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program.

I wish to thank LAMAR SMITH, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, and Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for their efforts in helping me bring this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I just further urge support of this bill, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5571.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6838) to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6838

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Center to Advance, Monitor, and Preserve University Security Safety Act of 2008" or the "CAMPUS Safety Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART 11.—NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY

"SEC. 3021. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY.

"(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE CENTER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is authorized to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety (referred to in this section as the 'Center').

"(2) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is authorized to award grants to institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations to assist in carrying out the functions of the Center required under subsection (b).

"(b) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER.—The Center shall—

"(1) provide quality education and training for campus public safety agencies of institutions of higher education and the agencies' collaborative partners, including campus mental health agencies;

“(2) foster quality research to strengthen the safety and security of the institutions of higher education in the United States;

“(3) serve as a clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information, policies, procedures, and best practices relevant to campus public safety, including off-campus housing safety, the prevention of violence against persons and property, and emergency response and evacuation procedures;

“(4) develop protocols, in conjunction with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, private and nonprofit organizations and associations, and other stakeholders, to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from, natural and man-made emergencies or dangerous situations involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community;

“(5) promote the development and dissemination of effective behavioral threat assessment and management models to prevent campus violence;

“(6) coordinate campus safety information (including ways to increase off-campus housing safety) and resources available from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations and associations;

“(7) increase cooperation, collaboration, and consistency in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies and jurisdictions serving institutions of higher education in the United States;

“(8) develop standardized formats and models for mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding between campus security agencies and other public safety organizations and mental health agencies; and

“(9) report annually to Congress and the Attorney General on activities performed by the Center during the previous 12 months.

“(c) COORDINATION WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—In establishing the Center, the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services shall—

“(1) consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, and the Attorney General of each State; and

“(2) coordinate the establishment and operation of the Center with campus public safety resources that may be available within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Education.

“(d) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In this section, the term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,750,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, we have seen a number of tragic incidents of violence at colleges and universities, including the disastrous incidents at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University.

This bill will help schools to more effectively prevent such incidents and to more effectively respond if such incidents do occur. It creates a national center for campus public safety administered through the Department of Justice. The center will train campus safety agencies, promote research into improving campus safety, and be a clearinghouse for campus safety information. The director at the center will have the authority to award grants to institutions of higher learning to help them meet their enhanced public safety goals.

I would like to thank and publicly acknowledge Crime Subcommittee Chairman Bobby Scott of Virginia, as well as ranking member of that subcommittee, Louie Gohmert of Texas, as well as Senator LEAHY for their bipartisan leadership on this initiative.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill.

I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, and I will include my entire statement as part of the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, teachers and students at Virginia Tech gathered to mark the 1-year anniversary of the campus shooting that killed 27 students and 5 faculty members. We now know that the shooter was a mentally-disturbed young man who was able to purchase two handguns. He brought those handguns to the campus and began a shooting spree that spanned several hours and occurred in both dorms and classrooms across campus.

Sadly, in February of this year, a gunman stormed a classroom at Northern Illinois University and opened fire, killing 5 students and wounding 16 others before killing himself.

In the wake of the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University and a recent rash of violence in public schools across the country, it is appropriate for Congress to act to provide resources to schools and law enforcement officials to help protect our schools.

School and college campuses should be safe environments for students to learn. Today, campus security requires much more than ever before, including campus police, emergency alert systems, and emergency response plans.

H.R. 6838, the CAMPUS Safety Act, authorizes the Department of Justice to establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety to award grants to colleges and universities and other nonprofit organizations, provide education and training for campus public safety agencies, and promote research to improve the security of colleges and universities.

The center may coordinate with other Federal agencies to prevent and respond to natural disasters, incidents of campus violence, or other emergencies. The center may also promote the development of an effective behavioral health threat assessment to prevent campus violence.

It is my hope that through this legislation and other programs across the country, we can do our best to prevent violence on our college and university campuses.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 6838.

I yield back my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I simply urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6838.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2304) to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2304

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Reauthorization of the Adult and Juvenile Collaboration Program Grants.

Sec. 4. Law enforcement response to mentally ill offenders improvement grants.

Sec. 5. Examination and report on prevalence of mentally ill offenders.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Communities nationwide are struggling to respond to the high numbers of people with mental illnesses involved at all points in the criminal justice system.

(2) A 1999 study by the Department of Justice estimated that 16 percent of people incarcerated in prisons and jails in the United States, which is more than 300,000 people, suffer from mental illnesses.